(iii) Low female literacy rate.

(iv) The low age of marriage of females.

(v) High prevalent infant mortality rate despite reduction.

(vi) Low plan outlay on the family welfare progrrmme on account of competing claims of various sectors on resources. The share of outlay for this programme ranges between 1.1 to 1.8% of the public sector outlays.

(c) and (d) The family welfare strategy is being reviewed particularly in the context of 8th Five Year Plan. The various proposals and alternatives including relatings to incentives/disincentives are being examined in this context. No final decision has been taken in the matter as yet.

Herbal Treatment for AIDS

797. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Health Organisation has affirmed that some of the plants used in AIDS treatment in Africa have shown biological activities for anti-HIV activity and may control AIDS ;

(b) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences or Medical researchers propose to go through the use of plants for anti-HIV activity to control AIDS ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) At the Central Drug Research Institute in Lucknow, India, there has been an ongoing programme to screen Indian plants for a broad array of biological actitviies, including antitumour and antiviral effects. A few active plants have been uncovered in this programme, but useful agents have not been identified. The basis for plant collection was primarily random.

Manufacture of Alcohol by Licensed Units

798. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have asked all the State Governments to immediately stop issuing of licences for manufacture of alcohol ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that a large number of alcohol manufacturing units in various parts of the country are functioning without obtaining any approval from the Central Government ; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the steps Government propose to take to ensure that only those units should function which have been granted approval by the centre ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All State Governments have been asked to direct the manufacturing units functioning in the States without valid approvals from the Central Government to approach the Central Government immediately for obtaining the necessary approvals. This point has repeatedly been emphasized on the State Governments specially during

the meeting of the Central Molasses Board where concerned Ministers of State Governments, Excise Commissioners etc. are represented. Recently also the State Governments have been asked to take necessary action as per rules against the defaulting units.

Import of Paraxylene

799. SHRI N. E. BALARAM :
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether use of imported paraxylene is not permitted because of the scarcity of foreign exchange and its local availability ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ;

(c) whether on the 24th January, 1990, the Secretary of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals called a Meeting of paraxylene manufacturers and users and it was stated there that Government would not allow foreign exchange to be squandered in the import of paraxylene ;

(d) whether import of paraxylene has been permitted recently ; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) and (b) Under the current import policy, paraxylene (PX) is canalised item. IPCL, a Public Sector Company is canalising agency. IPCL imports paraxylene as per requirement of DMT producers. Uptill now, during 1989-90, IPCL has imported 42199 tonnes of PX at estimated value of around US $ 28·42 million.

(c) Meeting under question was an internal Meeting which Department holds from time to time to review requirement of various products.

(d) and (e) Canalising agency has placed an order for 4000 tonnes of paraxylene with a view to meet requirement of DMT producers as also to create small buffer. This parcel is likely to arrive by end March, 1990.

Discovery of more Oil in the Cauvery Basin

800. SHRI N. E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has found more oil in the Cauvery Basin in Tanjavur District of Tamil Nadu ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what steps are being taken for its proper reprocessing ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) to (c) ONGC had earlier discovered hydrocarbon bearing prospects at Karaikal, Kovilkalappal, Narimanam and Nannilam in Thanjavur District of Cauvery Basin. They have further discovered oil and gas in Addiyakkamangalam-1 well in 1989. Three prospects namely, Narimanam, Nannilam and Addiyak-kamangalam have been put on Early Production System. The remaining two prospects are still at the delineation drilling stage. The oil being currently produced in transported to Madras Refinery for refining. It is also proposed to set up a Crude Distillation Unit of 0.5 MMTPA capacity at Narimanam for processing the crude rpoduced in the Cauvery basin.